

time removing the most plausible ground on which intrusions are excused, and adopting more efficient means to prevent them hereafter, appear to me the most judicious disposition which can be made of this difficult subject. The limitations and restrictions to guard against abuses in the execution of a pre-emption law, will necessarily attract the careful attention of Congress; but under no circumstances is it considered expedient to authorize floating claims in any shape. They have been heretofore, and doubtless would be hereafter, most prolific sources of fraud and oppression, and instead of operating to confer the favor of the Government on industrious settlers, are often used only to minister to a spirit of cupidity at the expense of the most meritorious of that class.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of War will bring to your view the state of the Army, and all the various subjects confided to the superintendence of that officer.

The principal part of the Army has been concentrated in Florida, with a view and in the expectation, of bringing the war in that territory to a speedy close. The necessity of stripping the posts on the maritime and inland frontiers of their entire garrisons, for the purpose of assembling in the field an army of less than four thousand men, would seem to indicate the necessity of increasing our regular forces; and the superior efficiency, as well as greatly diminished expense of that description of troops, recommend this measure as one of economy as well as expediency. I refer to the report for the reasons which have induced the Secretary of War to urge the reorganization and enlargement of the staff of the Army, and of the ordnance corps, in which I fully concur.

It is not, however, compatible with the interest of the people to maintain, in time of peace, a regular force adequate to the defence of our extensive frontiers. In periods of danger and alarm, we must rely upon a well-organized militia; and some general arrangement that will render this description of force more efficient, has long been a subject of anxious solicitude. It was recommended to the first Congress by General Washington, and has been since frequently brought to your notice, and recently its importance strongly urged by my immediate predecessor. The provision in the Constitution that renders it necessary to adopt a uniform system of organization for the militia throughout the United States, presents an insurmountable obstacle to an efficient arrangement by the classification heretofore proposed, and I invite your attention to the plan which will be submitted by the Secretary of War, for the organization of volunteer corps, and the instruction of militia officers, as more simple and practicable, if not equally advantageous, as a general arrangement of the whole militia of the U. States.

A moderate increase of the corps, both of military and topographical engineers, has been more than once recommended by my predecessor, and my conviction of the propriety, not to say necessity, of the measure, in order to enable them to perform the various and important duties imposed upon them, induces me to repeat the recommendation.

The Military Academy continues to answer all the purposes of its establishment, and not only furnishes well educated officers to the army, but serves to diffuse throughout the mass of our citizens individuals possessed of military knowledge, and the scientific attainments of civil and military engineering. At present, the cadet is bound, with consent of his parents or guardians, to remain in service five years from the period of his enlistment, unless sooner discharged; thus exacting only one year's service in the army after his education is completed. This does not appear to me sufficient. Government ought to com-

mand for a longer period the services of those, who are educated at the public expense; and I recommend that the time of enlistment be extended to seven years, and the terms of the engagement strictly enforced.

The creation of a national foundry for cannon, to be common to the service of the army and navy of the United States, has been heretofore recommended, and appears to be required in order to place our ordnance on an equal footing with that of other countries, and to enable that branch of the service to control the prices of those articles, and graduate the supplies to the wants of the Government, as well as to regulate their quality and ensure their uniformity. The same reasons induce me to recommend the erection of a manufactory of small arms west of the Alleghany mountains, upon the plan proposed by the Secretary of War, will contribute to extend throughout that country the improvements which exist in establishments of a similar description in the Atlantic States, and tend to a much more economical distribution of the armament required in the western portion of our Union.

The system of removing the Indians west of the Mississippi, commenced by Mr. Jefferson in 1804, has been steadily persevered in by every succeeding President, and may be considered the settled policy of the country. Unconnected at first with any well defined system for their improvement, the inducements held out to the Indians were confined to the greater abundance of game to be found in the West; but when the beneficial effects of their removal were made apparent, a more philanthropic and enlightened policy was adopted, in purchasing their lands east of the Mississippi. Liberal prices were given, and provisions inserted in all the treaties with them, for the application of the funds they received in exchange, to such purposes as were best calculated to promote their present welfare, and advance their future civilization. These measures have been attended thus far with the happiest results.

It will be seen, by referring to the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, that the most sanguine expectations of the friends and promoters of this system have been realized. The Choctaws, Cherokees, and other tribes that first emigrated beyond the Mississippi, have, for the most part, abandoned the hunter state and become cultivators of the soil. The improvement in their condition has been rapid, and it is believed that they are now fitted to enjoy the advantages of a simple form of government, which has been submitted to them and received their sanction, and I cannot too strongly urge this subject upon the attention of Congress.

Stipulations have been made with all the Indian tribes to remove them beyond the Mississippi, except with the band of the Wyandots, the Six Nations in New York, the Menomonees, Mandans and Stockbridges in Wisconsin, and Miamies in Indiana. With all but the Menomonees, it is expected that arrangements for their emigration will be completed the present year. The resistance which has been opposed to their removal by some of the tribes, even after treaties had been made with them to that effect, has arisen from various causes, operating differently on each of them. In most instances they have been instigated to resistance by persons to whom the trade with them and the acquisition of their annuities were important; and in some by the personal influence of interested Chiefs. These obstacles must be overcome; for the Government cannot relinquish the execution of this policy without sacrificing important interests, and abandoning the tribes remaining east of the Mississippi to certain destruction.

The decrease in numbers of the tribes within the limits of the States and Territories has been most rapid. If they be removed,

they can be protected from those associations and evil practices which exert so pernicious and destructive an influence over their destinies. They can be induced to labor, and to acquire property, and its acquisition will inspire them with a feeling of independence. Their minds can be cultivated, and they can be taught the value of salutary and uniform laws, and be made sensible of the blessings of free government, and capable of enjoying its advantages. In the possession of property, knowledge, and a good Government, free to give what direction they please to their labor, and sharers in the legislation by which their persons and the profits of their industry are to be protected and secured, they will have an ever present conviction of the importance of union, of peace among themselves, and of the preservation of amicable relations with us. The interests of the United States would also be greatly promoted by freeing the relations between the General and State Governments from what has proved a most embarrassing incumbrance, by a satisfactory adjustment of conflicting titles to lands, caused by the occupation of the Indians, and by causing the resources of the whole country to be developed by the power of the State and General Governments, and improved by the enterprise of a white population.

Intimately connected with this subject is the obligation of the Government to fulfil its treaty stipulations, and to protect the Indians thus assembled "at their new residences from all interruptions and disturbances from any other tribes or nations of Indians, or from any other person or persons whatsoever," and the equally solemn obligation to guard from Indian hostility its own border settlements, stretching along a line of more than one thousand miles. To enable the Government to redeem this pledge to the Indians, and to afford adequate protection to its own citizens, will require the continual presence of a considerable regular force on the frontiers, and the establishment of a chain of permanent posts. Examinations of the country are now making, with a view to decide on the most suitable points for the erection of fortresses and other works of defence, the results of which will be presented to you by the Secretary of War at an early day, together with a plan for the effectual protection of the friendly Indians, and the permanent defence of the frontier States.

By the report of the Secretary of the Navy, herewith communicated, it appears that unremitting exertions have been made at the different navy yards to carry into effect all authorized measures for the extension and employment of our naval force. The launching and preparation of the ship of the line Pennsylvania, and the complete repairs of the ships of the line Ohio, Delaware, and Columbus, may be noticed, as forming a respectable addition to this important arm of our national defence. Our commerce and navigation have received increased aid and protection during the present year. Our squadrons in the Pacific and on the Brazilian station have been much increased, and that in the Mediterranean, although small, is adequate to the present wants of our commerce in that sea. Additions have been made to our squadron in the West India station, where the large force under Commodore Dallas has been most actively and efficiently employed in protecting our commerce, in preventing the importation of slaves, and in co-operating with officers of the army in carrying on the war in Florida.

The satisfactory condition of our naval force abroad leaves at our disposal the means of conveniently providing for a home squadron, for the protection of our commerce upon our extensive coast. The amount of appropriations required for such a squadron will be found in the general estimates for the naval service for the year 1838.

The naval officers engaged upon our coast survey have rendered important service to our navigation. The discovery of a new channel into the harbor of New York, through which our largest ships may pass without danger, must afford important commercial advantages to that harbor, and add greatly to its advantages as a naval station. The accurate survey of George's shoals off the coast of Massachusetts, lately completed, will render comparatively safe a navigation hitherto considered dangerous.

Considerable additions have been made to the number of captains, commanders, lieutenants, surgeons, and assistant surgeons, in the Navy. These additions were rendered necessary, by the increased number of vessels put in commission, to answer the exigencies of our growing commerce.

Your attention is respectfully invited to the various suggestions of the Secretary, for the improvement of the naval service.

The report of the Postmaster General exhibits the progress and condition of the mail service. The operations of the Post Office Department constitute one of the most active elements of our national prosperity, and it is gratifying to observe with what vigor they are conducted. The mail routes of the United States cover an extent of about one hundred and forty-two thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven miles, having been increased about thirty-seven thousand one hundred and three miles within the last two years. The annual mail transportation on these routes is about thirty-six millions two hundred and twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty-two miles, having been increased about ten millions three hundred and fifty-nine thousand four hundred and seventy-six miles within the same period. The number of post offices has also been increased from ten thousand seven hundred and seventy to twelve thousand and ninety-nine, very few of which receive the mails less than once a week, and a large portion of them daily. Contractors and postmasters in general are represented as attending to their duties with most commendable zeal and fidelity.

The revenue of the Department, within the year ending on the thirtieth June last, was four millions one hundred and thirty-seven thousand and fifty-six dollars and fifty-nine cents; and its liabilities accruing within the same time were three millions three hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and forty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents. The increase of revenue over that of the preceding year was seven hundred and eighty thousand one hundred and sixty-six dollars and forty-one cents.

For many interesting details I refer you to the report of the Postmaster General, with the accompanying paper. Your particular attention is invited to the necessity of providing a more safe and convenient building for the accommodation of that Department.

I lay before Congress copies of reports submitted in pursuance of a call made by me upon the heads of Departments, for such suggestions as their experience might enable them to make, as to what further legislative provisions may be advantageously adopted to secure the faithful application of public moneys to the objects for which they are appropriated; to prevent their misapplication or embezzlement by those entrusted with the expenditure of them; and generally to increase the security of the Government against losses in their disbursement. It is needless to dilate on the importance of providing such new safeguards as are within the power of legislation to promote these ends; and I have little to add to the recommendations submitted in the accompanying papers.

By law the terms of service of our most important collecting and disbursing officers in the civil departments are limited to four years, and when re-appointed, their bonds are required to be renewed.

The safety of the public money is increased by this feature of the law, and there can be no doubt that its application to all officers entrusted with the collection or disbursement of the public money, whatever may be the tenure of their offices, would be equally beneficial. I therefore recommend, in addition to such of the suggestions presented by the heads of Departments as you may think useful, a general provision, that all officers of the Army or Navy, or in the Civil Department, entrusted with the receipt or payment of public money, and whose term of service is either unlimited or for a longer time than four years, be required to give bonds, with good and sufficient securities, at the expiration of every such period.

A change in the period of terminating the fiscal year, from the first of October to the first of April, has been frequently recommended, and appears to be desirable.

The distressing casualties in steamboats, which have so frequently happened during the year, seem to evince the necessity of attempting to prevent them, by means of severe provisions connected with their custom-house papers. This subject was submitted to the attention of Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury in his last annual report, and will be again at the present session, with additional details. It will doubtless receive that early and careful consideration which its pressing importance appears to require.

Your attention has heretofore been frequently called to the affairs of the District of Columbia, and I should not again ask it, did not their entire dependence on Congress give them a constant claim upon its notice. Separated by the Constitution from the rest of the Union, limited in extent, and aided by no Legislature of its own, it would seem to be a spot where a wise and uniform system of local government might have been easily adopted. This District, however, unfortunately, has been left to linger behind the rest of the Union; its codes, civil and criminal, are not only very defective, but full of obsolete or inconvenient provisions; being formed of portions of two States, discrepancies in the laws prevail in different parts of the territory, small as it is; and although it was selected as the seat of the General Government, the site of its public edifices, the depository of its archives, and the residence of officers entrusted with large amounts of public property, and the management of public business, yet it has never been subjected to, or received, that special and comprehensive legislation which these circumstances peculiarly demand. I am well aware of the various subjects of greater magnitude and immediate interest that press themselves on the consideration of Congress; but I believe there is not one that appeals more directly to its justice than a liberal, and even generous, attention to the interests of the District of Columbia, and a thorough and careful revision of its local government.

M. VAN BUREN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5th, 1837.



TARBOROUGH, SATURDAY, DEC. 23, 1837.

A merry Christmas.—Christmas occurring next week, we shall issue no paper in order that we may have an opportunity to participate in the customary festivities, and also to make some contemplated additions and improvements to our establishment. Our next number will appear on Friday the 5th January, which will be hereafter our day of publication, as it better suits the present arrangement of the mails.

Express mail; also, resolutions rescinding the Expunging resolutions, and sundry petitions against the annexation of Texas, &c.

In the House of Representatives, a resolution has been presented regarding the act to postpone the 4th instalment of the deposits with the States. Several petitions for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia have been presented, and the question of their reception was decided in the affirmative 144 to 60.

We learn from the Whig, that the citizens of Washington invited Gov. Dudley, and Messrs. Manly, Stone, of the Literary Board, to partake of a public dinner, on their return from inspecting the progress made in draining Mattanuck Lake, and of viewing the Swamp lands of that region generally, which they declined.

The Supreme Court, will commence its winter term, in this City on Monday next, the 23rd instant.—*Raleigh Standard.*

Bank of Newbern.—This institution has made a final dividend of its capital, of \$10 25 to the share, and will continue to redeem its Notes till the first of January, 1838, at Newbern.—*ib.*

From the Charleston Pat. Dec. 10.

Latest from Florida.—We learn from a passenger in the schooner Empire, from St. Augustine, that a letter received in that city from General Jesup, at Fort Mellon, states that Micampy, Cloud, Jumper, Ochithola, several other chiefs, and about 20 or 40 warriors, had come in at Fort Mellon. Also, a nephew of Sam Jones, bringing a message from him, stating that he would come in and surrender if Gen. Jesup would treat him well and apologise for having used the Indians as cowards. Gen. Hernandez had just arrived at St. Augustine from an expedition south, discovered no Indians. Gen. Jesup was momentarily expected at St. Augustine.

The Rail Road Accident.—Briefly stated in our last issue, a serious accident which occurred on Sunday last, on the Portsmouth and Roanoke Rail Road, and have since been enabled to state the following particulars: The train was on its way down Portsmouth with three passenger cars, in which were 25 or 30 persons, and nine lumber cars loaded with cotton. It had passed the Rochelle depot about a mile and a half, when a wheel of the engine struck against the end of one of the iron rails which being loose had sprung up to an elevation of 10 or 12 inches. The engine was instantly thrown from the track, the water tender upset, and the three passenger cars, successively precipitated with fearful velocity upon it, were crushed to pieces, one common mass of ruin! The passengers either threw themselves from the train, or mingled with their fragments in the dreadful crash. The scene as described to us was distressing in the extreme. The few who were immediately set about extricating their unfortunate companions from the pile of broken cars, in which work of mercy they were engaged for nearly an hour before the victim was rescued. Seventeen were wounded—four, we learned, shockingly mangled that they cannot survive; and to whom, were possible to preserve, it would be worse than death. We have not heard all their names, those reported to us were, Mr. Bryant, Mrs. Nathl. Rochelle, Miss Blow and Miss Sarah Kean, (these were the wife of Col. Rochelle, Mr. O. Miss Simmons—all of South Carolina; Mr. Crocker of Norfolk, C.) Mr. Noe of Norfolk, Mr. Mills Lawrence of Isle of Wight, Mr. Nelson Hodges of Weldon (N. C.) Mr. Hall of Baltimore, Mr. Blocker, and Mr. Blount, train agent.

The first car was occupied by colored persons, in which two of Col. Preston's servants, both of whom were injured, of them seriously, though not